

Crown, and the reference of such matters to royal commissions appointed on the advice of the accused is at variance with the due responsibility of Ministers to the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the executive government, and the Convention affirms that the powers of the people's representatives in this regard should on all fitting occasions be upheld.

That in the opinion of this Convention the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to the actual settlers only, and not to speculators, upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settlers.

That the Franchise Act, since its introduction has cost the Dominion treasury over a million of dollars, besides entailing a heavy expenditure to both political parties ;

That each revision involves an additional expenditure of a further quarter of a million ;

That this expenditure has prevented an annual revision, as originally intended, in the absence of which young voters entitled to the franchise have, in numerous instances, been prevented from exercising their natural rights ;

That it has failed to secure uniformity, which was the principal reason assigned for its introduction ;

That it has produced gross abuses by partisan revising barristers appointed by the government of the day ;

That the provisions are less liberal than those already existing in many provinces of the Dominion, and that in the opinion of this Convention the Act should be repealed, and we should revert to the provincial franchise.

That by the gerrymander Acts, the electoral divisions for the return of members to the House of Commons have been made so as to prevent a fair expression of the opinion of the country at the general elections, and to secure to the party now in power a strength out of all proportion greater than the number of electors supporting them would warrant ; to put an end to this abuse, to make the House of Commons a fair exponent of public opinion, and to preserve the historic continuity of counties, it is desirable that in the formation of electoral divisions, county boundaries should be preserved, and that in no case parts of different counties should be put into one electoral division.

The present constitution of the Senate is inconsistent with the federal principle in our system of government, and is in other respects defective, as it makes the Senate independent of the people and uncontrolled by the public opinion of the country, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principle of popular government.

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite.

Such is the platform of the Liberal party as adopted at its convention held here nearly two years ago. It seems to me the hon. gentlemen opposite cannot ignore its existence, and they did not ignore it either, since they are always asking where we are going to get a revenue with such a platform. The Government organs have not the same fears with respect to this matter and some of them clearly state that it is possible to

manage the affairs of this country with a tariff for revenue. In support of this contention, I will quote from the "Montreal Gazette" of the 21st February last. It undertook to contradict the statements of some of its contemporaries. Here is what it said :

An adequate revenue for the needs of the public service can unquestionably be collected by means of a tariff based on the principles of British free trade, that is to say, a tariff designed solely for the purposes of revenue, and from which every vestige of protection will be eliminated. Under such a system, commodities not capable of production in Canada will be taxed to the necessary revenue-producing point, and every dollar of duty laid on will find its way into the treasury.

That is indeed what we want, that every dollar paid by the tax-payers should go into the public treasury, and not in the pockets of the manufacturers. In order to give the hon. gentlemen opposite a foretaste of what is in store for them at the coming election, I may say that hardly a year ago, all the British colonies had a protective system. Since then the New South Wales, Queensland and Australia have adopted free-trade. Canada alone keeps to protection, but I am satisfied a radical change will be effected at the next election. We are asked what our platform is. I will answer this query by the declaration of principle made in Montreal by the late leader of the Liberal party, the Hon. Mr. Blake, at a dinner in the Windsor Hotel, on the 29th March, 1881, which the Quebec Liberal party had been required to attend by its late leader Mercier :

For us of the Liberal party, our hereditary opinions are in favour of liberty, liberty of the nation, liberty of the person, and liberty of property. We believe that a cause which calls upon us to restrict any of those liberties requires us to believe and to profess the opposite of these principles. We believe that, *prima facie*, it is right for each one of you to be secured in the liberties to which I have referred, and amongst the most valued liberties in connection with property is freedom to sell or exchange it to the best advantage, freedom to dispose of it where you will, to whom you will, upon the best terms you can.

Our platform, our ideas, our opinions were formulated by our present leader in 1877, in the course of a speech which was much noted. And this platform, these ideas, these opinions, we hope to see them carrying the day under the leadership of the man who set them forth in 1877 in such eloquent words. The country is only waiting for the next election to assert that the present leader of the Liberal party is the only man able to shape its destinies and bring it out of danger ; that of all the political leaders who have a share of the public sentiment, he is the most upright in his public as well as in his private life ; that he is our greatest speaker and that by his noble, worthy, be-